

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction, under 35 U.S.C. 121, to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-22, drawn to a mixture of uncoated pellets, classified in class 424, subclass 489.
- II. Claims 23-26, drawn to a mixture of coated and uncoated pellets, classified in class 424, subclass 490+.
- III. Claims 27-23, drawn to a mixture of dual-coated pellets, classified in class 424, subclass 490+.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the claims in Group I, i.e. claims 1-22, with traverse and elect the polymeric binder of (a) cellulose esters/ethers;hydroxypropylmethylcellulose;hydroxypropyl cellulose.

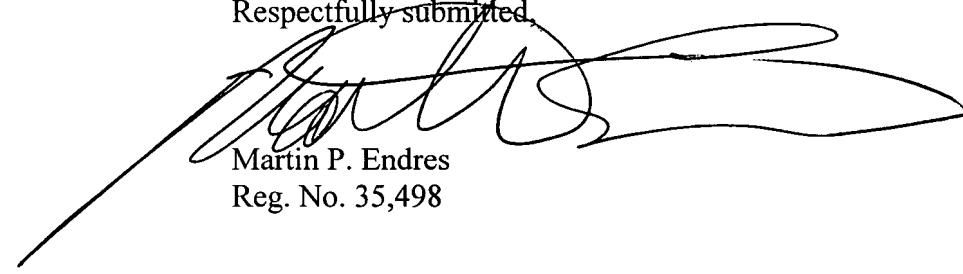
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement with respect to the claims in Group II, i.e. claims 23-26. Applicants believe that the Examiner's description of claims 1-22 to be incorrect. All claims in Group I and Group II require a mixture of immediate release pellets and extended release pellets. The immediate release pellets in both Group I and Group II require an inert starting seed, a binder and the drug. The extended release pellets in both Group I and II require a core and a coating. The core of the extended release pellets comprises/consists essentially of a inert starting seed, a binder and drug and the coating of the extended release pellets comprises/consists essentially of a water insoluble polymer.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 have also been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added by the amendments.

I view of the similarities in the claims of Group I and Group II, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement with respect to the claims in Group I and Group II.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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